

HONORING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CHRIS KYLE

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I solemnly stand today to honor and pay respect to a true American patriot, a devoted father, and a loving husband, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle. Sadly, on February 2, 2013, Chris and close friend Chad Littlefield were tragically killed on a remote ranch in Texas while attempting to help a troubled veteran who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Chris leaves behind his lovely wife Taya, and their two children.

Born on April 8, 1974 in Odessa, Texas, Chris began shooting and hunting with his father when he was eight years old. After an accident ended a short-lived career as a professional bronco rider, Chris was moved from within to satisfy his life-long desire to serve his country and join the military. Chris enlisted in the United States Navy, and ultimately worked his way to becoming a member of the United States Navy's Sea, Air, Land Teams, also known as the U.S. Navy Seals, one of our nation's most elite group of special forces units.

From 1999 to 2009, Chris served four tours in Iraq as a member of SEAL Team 3 where he was involved in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his time in Iraq, Chris' courage and heroism in battle earned him the title and honor of the most elite sniper in U.S. history.

Fearful for his deadly accuracy, Chris was nicknamed The Devil of Ramadi by insurgents, and recorded a record 150 confirmed kills—one of which was a 2,100-yard strike, 1.2 miles away. More importantly however, Chris is most remembered for his selfless and unwavering ability to protect American troops while perched on rooftops. In fact, despite being shot twice and directly involved in multiple IED explosions during his tours, Chris always made doing his job and his fellow teammates his top priority. For his bravery, Chris was awarded two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation.

In 2009, Chris retired from his military career in order to dedicate more time to his wife and family. Shortly after, he released his New York Times bestselling autobiography, *American Sniper*, which shares his battle experiences and sheds light on the true sacrifices that service members and their families endure. Unprepared for the books immediate success, Chris ultimately donated proceeds from the book to the families of fallen service members. For those that knew Chris personally, this was nothing out of the ordinary.

Chris was not just an exemplary soldier; he was a successful businessman, a trusted friend and team member, and a devoted husband, father, and son. He lived by the professional motto, "It is our duty to serve those who serve us." This principle became the driving force behind his decision to found Craft International, a military and law enforcement training and security company, as well as help create Fitco Cares Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans overcome post-traumatic stress disorder and adjust to civilian.

As a former veteran myself, I truly understand the sacrifices Chris and his family made for our great country. Chris' devotion to a higher calling and his commitment to God, Country, and Family should serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. We all owe a debt to men and women like Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Chris Kyle, a true American hero and a man of great principle. I extend my deepest condolences to Chris' family, and my thoughts and prayers are with them as they move forward in Chris' honor.

RECOGNIZING SIX GRADUATING SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS AT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College. Four members of the men's varsity basketball team, Anthony Hamer, Jake Simmons, Seth Runge, and Ken Owusu, and two members of the women's basketball team, Erica Derby and Alicia Bowman, will graduate this spring. I commend each of these students for their contributions to Buffalo State, and congratulate them at the culmination of their illustrious collegiate athletic careers.

Scholar athletes have the unique challenge of balancing the academic demands of undergraduate work with the physical demands of a collegiate sports program. Full participation in each requires incredible discipline and commitment. Each student athlete is accountable not only to themselves, but to their teammates, coaches, and greater campus community.

Despite such great expectations, Anthony, Jake, Seth, Ken, Erica and Alicia have excelled. Each will earn their bachelor's degree. Jake has the distinct honor of scoring the most points in the history of Buffalo State men's basketball. As an alumnus of Buffalo State College myself, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Buffalo State Bengals and wishing them the best as they complete their undergraduate careers. I have no doubt their work ethic and determination will bring them success in all their future endeavors.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 2013 will mark the 10th anniversary of a unique and historical gathering of scientists from 15 Middle East countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. In 2003, the

first conference, "Frontier of Chemical Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East—A Bridge to Peace," was held on the Mediterranean island of Malta. These conferences later came to be known as "The Malta Conferences."

In each of the conferences, scientists meet for five days with six Nobel Laureates to work on scientific issues of importance to the region: Air and Water Quality, Alternative Energy Sources, Nanotechnology and Material Science, Medicinal Chemistry, and Science Education for All Levels. Since 2003, five conferences were held. By invitation from UNESCO, Malta V was held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris in December 2011. The conference was opened by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and followed by a speech by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan on his vision for the new Middle East.

Although acts of war and terrorism have destabilized the political and economic climate in the Middle East and around the world, it remains possible for scientists from opposing sides of the political and cultural conflict to meet in an attempt to forge relationships that bridge the deep chasms of distrust and intolerance.

In the Middle East, it is especially important that stable, mutually respectful, personal relationships be created that will enhance research interactions and collaborations, contribute to a more peaceful atmosphere, encourage international development, help establish a more favorable environment for regional peace and security, and foster further growth in regional scientific and technological cooperation. This is the goal of the Malta Conferences.

In 2012, the Malta Conferences Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization and my great friend and constituent Zafra Lerman was elected its president. Like other people who foster social change, she too had a dream. The fulfillment of this dream was the Malta Conferences.

Zafra Lerman is a world-renowned scientist and science educator. She received her Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and conducted research on isotope effects at Cornell University, Northwestern University, and at the Swiss Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. Professor Lerman developed an innovative approach of teaching science to non-science majors by integrating science with the arts, and with students' personal interests and cultural backgrounds. These methods have received national and international recognition. She has been invited to lecture on her methods all over the U.S. and around the world.

For the past 25 years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of dissidents all over the world. She chaired the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights for the American Chemical Society (ACS). At great risk to her personal safety, she has worked within the Soviet Union, China and other countries and has succeeded in preventing executions, releasing prisoners of conscience from jail and bringing dissidents into freedom.

Professor Lerman has received many national and international awards. In 1999, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Clinton. In 1998, she received the Kilby Laureate Award for extraordinary contribution to society through science,